

AF/1648



PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 2356.0011-06

AK TO
RNTB2
→ 08/03/99
[Signature]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Marc ALIZON et al.)
)
Serial No.: 09/041,975)
)
Filed: March 13, 1998)
)
For: VARIANT OF LAV VIRUSES)

Group Art Unit: 1648
Examiner: Jeffrey S. PARKIN
BOX AFTER FINAL

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Y.Q.
7/15/99
(15)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO PAPER NO. 9

In response to the Office Action dated May 17, 1999 (Paper No. 9), applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claim:

23. (Amended) A purified HIV-1 variant virus,
wherein said HIV-1 variant virus differs [genetically] at the amino acid sequence level
from the group of viruses consisting of HIV-1_{IIIB}, HIV-1_{BRU}, and HIV-1_{ARV-2} greater than 3.4 % in
the entire Gag protein, 3.1% in the entire Pol protein, and 13.0% in the entire Env protein,
wherein antibodies in AIDS patient sera bind to Gag, Pol, or Env polypeptides of said
HIV-1 variant virus,

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